

Serial No. Not Yet Assigned
Atty. Doc. No. 2003P05273WOUS

Amendments To The Specification:

In the English translation document, please delete the term --Description-- at page 1 line 1, before the title.

In the English translation document, please add the paragraph at page 1 line 5, after the title, as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the US National Stage of International Application No. PCT/DE2004/000755, filed April 8, 2004 and claims the benefit thereof. The International Application claims the benefits of German application No. 10316481.2, filed April 9, 2003, both applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 5, after the newly added CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS paragraph, as follows:

--FIELD OF INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 9, as follows:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 7 lines 16-17, after the title, as follows:

Advantageous embodiments of the method are the subject matter of claims 2 to 19 in each case invention are presented in dependent claims.

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 10 lines 22-26, after the title, as follows:

The considerations and advantages in relation to the method according to the invention apply analogously to the system according to the invention. Advantageous embodiments of the system are the subject matter of the dependent claims 21 to 44 in each case.

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 10 line 28 to page 11 line 20, as follows:

The invention and further advantageous embodiments of the invention according to features of the dependent claims are explained in more detail below in a simplified illustration with reference to exemplary embodiments in the figures. The same reference characters are used for the same elements in the figures, in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- FIG 1: shows a supply process for service devices according to the invention,
- FIG 2: shows a block diagram of a first embodiment of a system according to the invention,
- FIG 3: is a flowchart of an embodiment of the method according to the invention,
- FIG 4: is a block diagram of a second embodiment of a system according to the invention,
- FIG 5: shows an embodiment of a web page providing inventory information, and
- FIG 6: shows an embodiment of a web page for electronic release by a line manager,
- FIG 7: shows a service process of a service provider for a fault recovery scenario, and
- FIG 8: shows in a simplified representation by way of example a known process for providing two service employees SP1 and SP2 of a service provider SDL with service devices.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 11 line 21, as follows:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please add the paragraphs at page 26 line 29, as follows:

The invention further comprises advantageous embodiments of a system:

A system (1), wherein the device service provider (GDL) has a plurality of self-owned additional service devices (SG-GDL) which can be requested for the service providers (SDL1, SDL2) via the data processing system (DV) for delivery to the desired installation site.

A system (1), wherein a service device of another of the service providers (SDL2) can be requested by at least one of the service providers (SDL1) via the data processing system (DV).

A system (1), wherein the data processing system (DV) has means (18) for checking the availability of a requested service device in the service device inventory of the service provider (SDL1 or SDL2), said service device inventory being administered by the device service provider (GDL).

A system (1), wherein the data processing system (DV) has means (19) for checking the availability of a requested service device in a service device inventory owned by the device service provider (GDL).

A system (1), wherein the data processing system (DV) has means (20) for checking the availability of a requested service device in the service device inventory of the further service provider (SDL2 or SDL1), said service device inventory being administered by the device service provider (GDL).

A system (1), wherein the data processing system (DV) has means (21) for initiating a purchase of a requested service device.

A system (1), wherein the technical service devices comprise tools and/or measuring and/or testing means.

A system (1), wherein the service providers (SDL1, SDL2) are connected to the data processing system (DV) via a data communications network (3), in particular the internet and/or an intranet.

A system (1), wherein a device data record (13) is stored in the data processing system (DV) for each of the service devices, said device data record (13) containing data uniquely characterizing the respective service device in terms of device type, location and user.

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A system (1), wherein the device data record (13) additionally includes device owner data, leasing costs data and/or purchase price data.

A system (1), wherein the device data record (13) additionally includes a date for a recall of the service device.

A system (1), wherein the data processing system (DV) has means (24) for automatically comparing a current date with the date for a recall of the service device and for initiating a return delivery of the service device to the device service provider if the current date exceeds the recall date.

A system (1), wherein the date for a recall of the service device is a date for the calibration of said service device.

A system (1), wherein the service providers (SDL1, SDL2) have a defined set of service personnel (SP11, SP12, SP21, SP22) who can request service devices and that in the data processing system (DV) there is stored for each of the service personnel a respective personnel data record (14) containing data uniquely characterizing the service personnel in terms of name and associated service provider.

A system (1), wherein the personnel data record (14) includes criteria for the validity of a device request and/or a person with release authorization for the release of an invalid device request.

A system (1), wherein the data processing system (DV) has means (22) for checking the validity of a device request of service personnel against the personnel-related admissibility criteria of the service personnel and for outputting a release request to the person with release authorization associated with the service personnel if the device request is not valid.

A system (1), wherein the personnel-related admissibility criteria include a maximum permitted purchase price.

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A system (1), wherein one or more of the service devices are assigned to service personnel in the data processing system (DV) and that means (17) for catalog generation are provided by means of which only the service devices assigned to the service personnel in each case can be displayed in the form of a catalog.

A system (1), wherein the data processing system (DV) has a database (6) in which the device data records (13) and/or the personnel data records (14) are stored.

A system (1), wherein the data processing system (DV) is a server computer system (4).

A system (1), wherein the service providers access the server computer system (4) via client computers (5).

A system (1), wherein the server computer system (4) comprises at least one web server (30).

A system (1), wherein a web server (34) with no resident data resource is installed upstream of the web server 30 as a front-end.

A system (1), wherein the web server (30) is communicatively connected to one or more ERP database systems (39).